

Sub  
al

[illegible]

processing system  
to messages:  
moving an ele  
rule is associ  
the electronic  
istics of the  
in the rule and  
sing the chara  
further comp  
messages using  
wherein the  
another user i  
wherein the  
ads and common  
wherein the

- 1 1. A method in a data processing system for modifying  
2 rules to process electronic messages:  
3 detecting user input moving an electronic message  
4 into a folder, wherein a rule is associated with the  
5 folder;  
6 determining whether the electronic message matches  
7 the rule;  
8 identifying characteristics of the electronic  
9 message if a match between the rule and the electronic  
10 message is absent; and  
11 modifying the rule using the characteristics to form  
12 a modified rule.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 processing received messages using the modified  
3 rule.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the processing step is  
2 initiated in response to another user input approving use  
3 of the modified rule.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the criteria includes  
2 priority-based common fields and common content.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the folder is a trash  
2 folder.

Cont

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be addressed. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

1 8. A method in a data processing system for modifying  
2 rules for processing messages, the method comprising the  
3 data processing system implemented steps of:  
4 detecting a manipulation of an electronic message,  
5 wherein a rule is associated with the manipulation;  
6 determining whether the electronic message matches  
7 the rule;  
8 identifying characteristics of the electronic  
9 message if a match between the rule and the electronic  
10 message is absent; and  
11 modifying the rule using the characteristics.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the manipulation is a  
2 deletion of the message.

Docket No. RSW9-2000-0065-US1

1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the manipulation is a  
2 movement of the electronic message from a first folder to  
3 a second folder.

1 11. A data processing system comprising:  
2 a bus system;  
3 a communications unit connected to the bus system;  
4 a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the  
5 memory includes a set of instructions; and  
6 a processing unit connected to the bus system,  
7 wherein the processing unit executes the set of  
8 instructions to detect a manipulation of an electronic  
9 message in which a rule is associated with the  
10 manipulation, determine whether the electronic message  
11 matches the rule, identify characteristics of the  
12 electronic message if a match between the rule and the  
13 electronic message is absent, and modify the rule using  
14 the characteristics.

1 12. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the  
2 bus system is a single bus.

1 12. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the  
2 bus system includes a primary bus and a secondary bus.

1 14. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the  
2 processing unit includes a plurality of processors.

Docket No. RSW9-2000-0065-US1

1 15. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the  
2 communications unit is one of a modem and Ethernet  
3 adapter.

1 16. A data processing system for modifying rules to  
2 process electronic messages, the data processing system  
3 comprising:

4 detecting means for detecting user input moving an  
5 electronic message into a folder, wherein a rule is  
6 associated with the folder;

7 determining means for determining whether the  
8 electronic message matches the rule;

9 identifying means for identifying characteristics of  
10 the electronic message if a match between the rule and  
11 the electronic message is absent; and

12 modifying means for modifying the rule using the  
13 characteristics to form a modified rule.

1 17. The data processing system of claim 16 further  
2 comprising:

3 processing means for processing received messages  
4 using the modified rule.

1 18. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein the  
2 processing means is initiated in response to another user  
3 input approving use of the modified rule.

a/ 005200" 64335950

Docket No. RSW9-2000-0065-US1

1 19. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the  
2 criteria includes priority-based common fields and common  
3 content.

1 20. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the  
2 folder is a trash folder.

1 21. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the  
2 characteristics includes at least one of a sender  
3 address, a selected word in a subject line body of the  
4 electronic message, a select word in a body of the  
5 electronic message, and an attribute of the time/date  
6 field of the electronic message.

1 22. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the  
2 identifying means includes:  
3 identifying means for identifying the  
4 characteristics of the electronic message absent from the  
5 rule.

1 23. A data processing system for modifying rules for  
2 processing messages, the data processing system  
3 comprising:  
4 detecting means for detecting a manipulation of an  
5 electronic message, wherein a rule is associated with the  
6 manipulation;  
7 determining means for determining whether the  
8 electronic message matches the rule;

a  
0066280" 54005350

Docket No. RSW9-2000-0065-US1

9 identifying means for identifying characteristics of  
10 the electronic message if a match between the rule and  
11 the electronic message is absent; and  
12 modifying means for modifying the rule using the  
13 characteristics.

1 24. The data processing system of claim 23, wherein the  
2 manipulation is a deletion of the message.

1 25. The data processing system of claim 23, wherein the  
2 manipulation is a movement of the electronic message from  
3 a first folder to a second folder.

1 26. A computer program product in a computer readable  
2 medium for use in a data processing system for modifying  
3 rules to process electronic messages:

4 first instructions for detecting user input moving  
5 an electronic message into a folder, wherein a rule is  
6 associated with the folder;

7       second instructions for determining whether the  
8   electronic message matches the rule;

9           third instructions for identifying characteristics  
10   of the electronic message if a match between the rule and  
11   the electronic message is absent; and

12       fourth instructions for modifying the rule using the  
13       characteristics to form a modified rule.

1 27. A computer program product in a computer readable  
2 medium for use in a data processing system for modifying

Docket No. RSW9-2000-0065-US1

3 rules for processing messages, the computer program  
4 product comprising:  
5 first instructions for detecting a manipulation of  
6 an electronic message, wherein a rule is associated with  
7 the manipulation;  
8 second instructions for determining whether the  
9 electronic message matches the rule;  
10 third instructions for identifying characteristics  
11 of the electronic message if a match between the rule and  
12 the electronic message is absent; and  
13 fourth instructions for modifying the rule using the  
14 characteristics.

006289 "640305969